

Response of August 18, 2005

**U.S. Patent Application
09/857,906
Atty Docket No. QMT1.1-US**

Listing of the Claims:

- 1-8. (canceled)
9. (currently amended): An intrinsically antimicrobial material comprising:
- an absorbent polymeric matrix having an enhanced surface area;
- wherein said enhanced surface area further comprises a polymer of antimicrobial monomeric moieties attached to said matrix via non-siloxane covalent chemical bonds so as to ~~render the polymer non-leachable upon exposure to~~ result in a structure which is less prone to degradation by acids or bases produced during bacterial growth and consequent detachment of said polymer of antimicrobial monomeric moieties from the matrix, whereby and to leave the material remains antimicrobial after exposure of the material to skin or aqueous biological fluids.
10. (previously presented): The material of claim 9, wherein said aqueous biological fluids are bodily fluids, sweat, tears, mucus, urine, menses, blood, wound exudates, or mixtures thereof.
11. (previously presented): The material of claim 9, wherein molecules of said polymer are attached to said matrix via one or more covalent carbon-oxygen-carbon bonds, or carbon-carbon bonds, or carbon-nitrogen bonds, or combinations thereof.
12. (previously presented): The material of claim 9, wherein said antimicrobial monomeric moieties are allyl- or vinyl-containing monomers.
13. (previously presented): The material of claim 9, wherein said antimicrobial monomeric moieties comprise at least one quaternary ammonium compound.

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14. (currently amended): The ~~method~~material of claim 13, wherein the quaternary ammonium compound is dimethyldiallyl ammonium chloride, or a trialkyl(p-vinylbenzyl)ammonium chloride, or a p-trialkylaminoethyl styrene monomer.
15. (previously presented): The material of claim 9, wherein said matrix comprises cellulose.
16. (previously presented): The material of claim 9, wherein said matrix comprises a polyethylene oxide, a polyvinyl alcohol, or a polyacrylate.
17. (previously presented): The material of claim 9, wherein said matrix consists essentially of hydrophilic fibers or filaments having a superabsorbent capacity for aqueous biological fluids as evidenced by being capable of absorbing at least about thirty times its own weight of water.
18. (previously presented): An absorbent dressing, diaper, sanitary pad, or tampon comprising the intrinsically antimicrobial material of claim 9.
19. (previously presented): A method for fabricating the intrinsically antimicrobial material of claim 9 comprising the steps of:

forming an absorbent polymeric matrix having an enhanced surface area; and

attaching a polymer of antimicrobial monomeric moieties in an amount sufficient to impart to the material an antimicrobial effect which remains after exposure of the material to skin or aqueous biological fluids.
20. (previously presented): The method of claim 19, wherein said antimicrobial monomeric moieties comprise at least one quaternary ammonium compound.
21. (previously presented): The method of claim 20, wherein the quaternary ammonium compound is dimethyldiallyl ammonium chloride, or a trialkyl(p-vinylbenzyl)ammonium chloride, or a p-trialkylaminoethyl styrene monomer.